

NEWS REUSE

WINTER 2014

PRINTED ON 50% PCW PAPER

GRESHAM RECYCLING AND WASTE PREVENTION NEWS

INTRODUCING WASTE WIZARD

See what goes where including recycling, garbage items, electronics and household hazardous waste. Give it a try.



[GreshamOregon.gov/
WasteWizard](http://GreshamOregon.gov/WasteWizard)

VISIT US



NEWS TO REUSE is produced twice a year by the City of Gresham for its residents.

The information in this newsletter is current as of the publication date.

Issues are available for viewing at GreshamOregon.gov.

© City of Gresham

Save our recycling facilities from getting 'sacked'

All that holiday shopping can create an official Grinch: plastic shopping sacks. What puts plastic sacks on the “naughty” list is they’re often recycled the wrong way – with bad results.

“Plastic bags cause problems for the recycling infrastructure and their removal from equipment puts workers at risk of injury, so we’re asking Gresham customers to not recycle plastic sacks in their curbside recycling carts,” said Dan Blue, manager of the City’s Solid Waste and Recycling Division.

Area recycling facilities report they are overrun with plastic bags. On a recent trip to a recycling facility, City staff noticed the workers are so besieged by plastic bags that the sorting equipment must be turned off up to four times a day so employees can climb 15 feet up to cut the plastic out of equipment rollers.

SEE PLASTIC BAGS/Page 3



City of Gresham photos

Workers at recycling facilities in Portland are overwhelmed with the amount of plastic sacks that whiz by them at 10-15mph. Many bags make it through and contaminate the rest of the recycling, making it difficult to sell it to market.

Is your school a Certified Green School?

- Engage students with fun projects.
- Help and guidance along the way.
- Earn rewards and recognition.
- Save money on energy and waste disposal.

Find out how your school can be more green at
www.OregonGreenSchools.org or by calling
503-618-2694

JOIN THE

**OREGON
GREEN
SCHOOLS**

Team!

*Make a Difference.
Take Pride.
Get Noticed.*

GoCart! Garbage and recycling: There really is an app for that

Never forget what to put in or when to roll out with GoCart!, the City’s free garbage collection and recycling reminder tool. Receive a personalized collection day reminder by email, smart phone, text or Tweet. You also receive recycling tips, schedule changes, and winter weather service alerts from the City of Gresham.

Sign up for GoCart! by Jan. 1, 2015, and enter to win a year of free garbage service.

SEE GOCART/Page 2



GoCart! is available online in the Google Play and iTunes stores, and can be accessed at GreshamOregon.gov/GoCart!

PRESORT
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gresham, OR
Permit #168

POSTAL CUSTOMER
*****ECRWSS*****

Waste-wise holidays

Make it merry and green

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, many of you will be busy with festivities and gift sharing. The holiday season presents many opportunities to reduce household waste and make environmentally friendly choices. We put together a few useful tips to keep your holiday season merry and green.

HOLIDAY CARDS AND GIFT WRAP

- **Consider repurposing** old paper materials or used cards to create one-of-a-kind new cards this year.
- **Create** electronic cards that avoid paper waste entirely.
- **Wrapping gifts** in colorful scarves, linens, dishcloths or tins that can be used year-round.
- **Reuse ribbons from previous gifts** or skip the ribbon and use cut evergreens, holly, cones and winter berries to decorate gifts.



HOUSEHOLD
CLEANING AND DÉCOR

- **Try decorating** with nature: twigs, evergreen branches, pine cones and holly all make beautiful pieces that can be composted after the season.
- **Try a Greener Cleaner** for household chores; many can be found on Metro's website **OregonMetro.gov**. Our staff pick:

TUB AND TILE CLEANER

- 1 ²/₃ cups baking soda
- 1 ¹/₂ cup vegetable oil-based liquid soap
- 1 ¹/₂ cup water
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- a few drops essential oil (optional)

MEALS AND FOOD

- **Look for** home-grown and seasonal ingredients at your local markets.
- **Try using Fork It Over!** after large holiday parties to arrange for leftovers to go to local nonprofit organizations; forkitover.org.
- **Keep portions** proportional to the amount of guests you expect.

Food/Drink Portion per Person

Eggnog	½ cup
Turkey	12 to 14 pounds (up to 10 people)
Stuffing	¼ pound
Sweet Potatoes	¼ pound
Green Beans	¼ pound
Cranberries	3 tablespoons
Pumpkin Pie	1/8 of a 9-inch pie

For more holiday picks, visit GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling.

10 Reasons to sign up for GoCart!

What to put in... when to roll out!



Customized email, text or phone reminders

Garbage service alerts

Helpful news to reuse

GreshamOregon.gov/GoCart

1 Enter to win a year of garbage service!

GoCart!

2 When is garbage day?

GoCart!

3 Who is my hauler?

GoCart!

4 What's my hauler's phone number?

GoCart!

5 Holiday schedule change?

GoCart!

6 Bad weather service updates!

GoCart!

7 What goes in my yard debris bin!

GoCart!

8 Is it recyclable?

GoCart!

9 Earth Day Recycling Collection & Event news!

GoCart!

10 Not sure what to put where?

GoCart!

YES, it's FREE to sign up!

FIND IT HERE!

GET IT ON Google play

Available on the App Store

GreshamOregon.gov

For more garbage and recycling information

ACCOUNTS, COLLECTION SERVICES, MISSED PICK-UPS	• Hoodview Disposal 503-668-8300	GENERAL INFORMATION	E-mail: Recycle@GreshamOregon.gov	Recycling drop-off locations, disposal facilities, household hazardous waste:
• Arrow/American Sanitary 503-257-1331	• Rockwood Solid Waste 503-666-3488	• City of Gresham Recycling & Solid Waste Program 503-618-2525	Website: GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling	• Metro Recycling Information Center 503-234-3000 www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling
• Gresham Sanitary 503-665-2424	• Waste Management 1-800-808-5901			

Tips for tree recycling

Post-holiday tree pickup has changed now that most haulers are fully automated. Mechanical arms pick up yard debris containers and employees no longer hand-load trees into trucks.

To make sure all your greenery gets off the curb, be sure to meet these requirements:

- **Cut trees and greenery** into lengths that fit easily in your yard debris roll cart – even with the lid closed. When packing the cart, keep boughs 36 inches or less in length, so that they will fall freely into the truck when tipped.
 - **Include** only cut trees, wreaths, plants and swags that are free of tinsel, ornaments, wires, plastic, bows or other material.
- If you do not put your tree in the yard debris container and choose the curb:
- **Whole, natural trees** less than 6 feet tall will be assessed an additional fee of \$3.11.

- **Whole trees** longer than 6 feet must be cut in half.
 - **Each half** of an oversize tree not in the cart will be subject to the additional fee of \$3.11.
- If you are unable to cut a 6-foot or longer tree in half, please contact your hauler to discuss tree recycling options.

- For residents who aren't recycling trees and greens at the curb:
- **If you would like your tree picked up** by a nonprofit for a small fee, contact Metro at 503-234-3000 to find out who will be picking up trees in your neighborhood.
 - **If a local organization**, other than your hauler, is collecting your tree, schedule pickup on a day other than your yard debris collection day to avoid confusion.
 - **People living in large multifamily residences** should contact their property managers to arrange for tree collection services.



Not sure who your hauler is? Type in your address for the information at GreshamOregon.gov/GoCart.

Holiday collection schedule

Sign up for GoCart! to receive holiday schedule reminders or winter weather service alerts at GreshamOregon.gov/GoCart.

The changes for garbage, recycling and yard debris services during the holidays:

CHRISTMAS WEEK: DEC. 21-27

If your regular pick-up day is ...

Monday, Dec. 22	Regular schedule.
Tuesday, Dec. 23	Regular schedule.
Wednesday, Dec. 24	Regular schedule.
Thursday, Dec. 25	No collection.
Rescheduled to	→ Friday, Dec. 26.
Friday, Dec. 26	
Rescheduled to	→ Saturday, Dec. 27.

NEW YEAR'S WEEK: DEC. 28-JAN. 3

If your regular pick-up day is ...

Monday, Dec. 29	Regular schedule.
Tuesday, Dec. 30	Regular schedule.
Wednesday, Dec. 31	Regular schedule.
Thursday, Jan. 1	No collection.
Rescheduled to	→ Friday, Jan. 2.
Friday, Jan. 2	
Rescheduled to	→ Saturday, Jan. 3.

Save money and the planet by reducing food waste

During the holidays, and all year round, food spending and waste adds up. Americans toss approximately 25 percent of all their food and beverage purchases. According to the Economic Research Service, this amounts to \$1,350-\$2,275 lost per year per household.

This waste not only hits your wallet, it hurts the environment. Nationally, food waste accounts for the greatest percentage of household waste in our landfills and produces 135 million tons of greenhouse gases every year.

It's easy to make changes that cut back the amount of food waste generated in your household.

THE FIVE Ps OF FOOD WASTE

- **Plan: Make a list with meals in mind.**
While most Americans use a shopping list, not many shop with meals in mind.
- **Purchase: Buy only what you need.**
Buy fresh ingredients in smaller quantities more often so you waste less and enjoy fresher ingredients.

Choose loose fruit and vegetables over pre-packaged to better control the quantity you need and ensure fresher ingredients.

- **Prep: Prep now, eat later.**
Prepare and cook perishable items, then freeze them for use throughout the month. For example, bake and freeze chicken breasts or fry and freeze taco meat. By preparing perishable foods post-shopping, you will make it easier to whip up meals later in the week, saving time, effort and money. Some fruits and vegetables can even be frozen for later use in cooking.
- **Prolong: Keep fruits and vegetables fresh.**
Learn which fruits and vegetables stay fresh longer inside or outside the fridge using the Food Storage Guide on our website.
- **Provide: Eat what you buy.**
Eat the leftovers in your refrigerator. This includes planning for meals of leftovers and bringing them for lunches, which will also save you money.



INFORMATION TOOLKIT

Interested in preventing food waste and saving money?
Visit GreshamOregon.Gov/Recycling to get online resources that can help you:

- **Prepare** shopping lists
- **Read** food date labels wisely
- **Organize** and store food
- **Understand** food waste impacts
- **Access** mobile apps and web tools



“Plastic bags cause problems for the recycling infrastructure and their removal from equipment puts workers at risk of injury, so we’re asking Gresham customers to not recycle plastic sacks in their curbside recycling carts.”

DAN BLUE, MANAGER OF THE CITY’S SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING DIVISION

PLASTIC BAGS: Continued from Page 1

Remember that not all plastics can be recycled in the curbside roll cart. Garden hoses, tarps, frozen food containers, lids, cups, take-out containers, plastic product packaging and cellophane wrap are also not accepted in home recycling.

Recycle plastic sacks at most grocery stores; they accept them free of charge and often have bins stationed at front entrances. For oddball plastics such as tarps, cups and to-go food containers, call Metro at 503-234-3000.

To find out more about what goes in your recycling cart, and what needs to go to a special facility, use the Waste Wizard at GreshamOregon.gov/WasteWizard



YES, YOU'LL
WANT TO CUT
ME OUT!

CURBSIDE RECYCLING GUIDELINES

What to put in... What to leave out!

Mixed Recycling

IN OUT

PAPER & CARDBOARD

- Newspapers • Magazines
- Phonebooks • Opened junk mail
- Office paper • Cereal and shoe boxes
- Shredded paper • Milk, juice Soup cartons (rinse and drained)
- Flatten cardboard boxes

- Paper with food on it (such as pizza boxes) • Plastic or foil-coated paper • Paper with "wet strength" (such as frozen food boxes, coffee cups, paper plates) • Napkins • Paper towels and tissues

PLASTICS

TO-GO CONTAINERS

- Rinse all containers*
- Plastic bottles and tubs (6 ounces or larger) • Buckets (5 gallons or smaller)

- Plastic bags • Lids • Clamshell containers • Flatware • Cups
- Bottles that have come in contact with motor oil, pesticides or herbicides • Styrofoam

SCRAP METAL

- Rinse all containers, place metal lids inside cans and crimp closed.*
- Scrap metal smaller than 30 inches in all directions and less than 30 pounds
 - Metal cans • Foil • Pie plates Trays • Empty aerosol cans

- Metal that has plastic, food, or other non-metal materials attached

GLASS

RECYCLE SEPARATELY IN YOUR CURBSIDE BIN

- Rinse all containers*
- Bottles and jars (recycle separately in your yellow curbside bin)

- Glass shards • Plates • Glassware • Cookware • Vases • Lightbulbs
- Mirrors • Picture frames
- Window glass • Caps or lids

MOTOR OIL

Homeowners should put oil in transparent jugs and place at the curb for pickup by haulers. Apartment residents need special pickup. Call Metro at 503-234-3000.

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRIT: MORE TIPS FROM METRO

CHRISTMAS TREES: Cut tree into lengths that fit into your yard debris cart, even with the lid closed. Refer to Page 3 for complete instructions.

OLD HOLIDAY LIGHTS: Making the switch to energy-saving LEDs? Throughout its winter ZooLights festival, the Oregon Zoo is collecting old incandescent lights for recycling or visit Metro for closer options.

OLD ELECTRONICS: Oregon E-Cycles, a statewide program that collects computers, monitors and televisions for recycling, makes it even easier to keep recyclable materials out of the landfill. For free recycling locations call 1-888-5-ECYCLE.

WRAPPING PAPER, CARDS, BOXES: Make sure that only 100 percent paper is recycled in curbside carts. Wrapping paper with foil, plastic coating and glitter contaminate the recycling process and should not be put in recycle bins.

SEE MORE AT: www.oregonmetro.gov/news/metro-offers-tips-for-handling-holiday-waste
OR CALL: Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

STYROFOAM FROM HOLIDAY GIFTS CAN BE RECYCLED AT SOME DEPOTS. CALL METRO FOR MORE INFO.